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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,473	08/15/2003	Nikolaus Martin Ertmann	I-24622	3850

4859 7590 08/27/2004

MACMILLAN SOBANSKI & TODD, LLC  
ONE MARITIME PLAZA FOURTH FLOOR  
720 WATER STREET  
TOLEDO, OH 43604-1619

EXAMINER

BINDA, GREGORY JOHN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/642,473

Applicant(s)

ERLMANN, NIKOLAUS MARTIN

Examiner

Greg Binda

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 July 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20040102.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

*Election/Restrictions*

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species I shown in Figs. 1 & 2 in the reply filed on July 20, 2004 is acknowledged. However, in light of the fact that a generic claim, claim 1, has been found allowable, the requirement for restriction is withdrawn.

*Priority*

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Germany on February 16, 2001. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

*Information Disclosure Statement*

3. The listing of references in the specification as on pages 1 & 2 is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A(1) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

*Drawings*

4. The drawings are objected to because they fail to show:
- a. Claim 1, line 30: "blind holes with internal threads" in first yoke half 1
  - b. Claims 2 & 3: all limitations therein
  - c. Claim 4, line 6: "attachment screws" passed through through bores 23

5. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

#### *Specification*

6. The disclosure is objected to because:
- a. The cross reference at page 1 fails to identify the status of the international application. See MPEP § 1895.01.
  - b. The summary from page 2, line 28 through page 4, line 2 is just one long run-on sentence.

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7. The specification is objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.71 and 1.75(d)(1) because the detailed description of the elected invention fails to provide proper antecedent basis for the following claimed subject matter:

- a. Claim 2: “expansion screws”
- b. Claim 3: “screw ends that are taken up sunk”

*Claim Objections*

8. Claims 1-3, 11, 13 & 14 are objected to because of the following informalities:
- a. Claim 1, lines 18 & 19 recites the limitation “one step-like recess . . . starts from the first end face”. However, in the specification describes at page 7, line 12, the step-like recess is described as starting from the first connection face 13, not the first end face 11.
  - b. Claims 2 & 3 recite the limitation “the attachment screws” but it is not clear if all or just some of the previously recited attachment screws are “the attachment screws”. See claim 1, lines 30+.
  - c. Claim 3 recites “the attachment screws have screw ends that are taken up sunk” but the meaning of the phrase “taken up sunk” is unclear.
  - d. Claim 11 recites the limitation “the mating flange”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
  - e. Claims 13 & 14 recite the limitation “the connection screws”. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

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*Allowable Subject Matter*

9. Claims 1-14 are allowable (subject to correction of the above noted informalities).

Allowability is indicated because the prior art fails to show or suggest all the limitations of the claims.

a. Soichiro, JP 03-009118 shows a flange yoke for a universal joint that comprises many of the limitations of the claims but fails to show a complementary recess and projection having all the limitations in lines 17-28 of claim 1.

b. Lecomte, US 3,589,142 shows a flange yoke for a universal joint that comprises many of the limitations of the claims but fails to show the limitations in lines 29+ of claim 1.

*Conclusion*

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 1,660,792 shows a Hirth coupling.

11. This application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters noted above.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

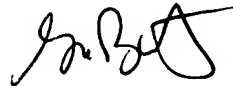
A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Binda whose telephone number is (703) 305-2869. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 am to 7:00 pm with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Greg Binda  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3679